

PSYCHE.

E. D. COPE, AS AN ENTOMOLOGIST.

BY C. R. OSTEN SACKEN, HEIDELBERG, GERMANY.

I have just been reading in the papers the sad news of the death of Prof. E. D. Cope, which occurred in Philadelphia a few days ago, and cannot resist the temptation to add my mite of homage, to the many homages his memory will receive.

My acquaintance with Professor Cope was only superficial, but although from a distance, I always was an admirer of his genius.

As a slight *memento* of him I possess a letter which he wrote me, on an entomological question, just 30 years ago. It is so characteristic, especially in the precision and terseness of its expressions, that I deem it worth while to communicate an exact copy of it for publication. The subject is the phenomenon well-known in Germany under the name of "Heerwurm," produced by the larvae of a fly, scientifically called *Sciara*.

Cope was, I believe the first to observe it in the United States, where it has been noticed several times since.

Heidelberg, Germany, April 18, 1897.

Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila. 12, 27, 1867.

My esteemed friend, R. v. Osten Sacken,

I trouble thee so far as to send some larvae which I take to be *Tipulideous*, but am not sure. — Will thee have the kindness to refer me to the genus or even the species if that be possible in the present state of our knowledge; or to correct me if they not be Tipulidae. — I am publishing in the Pr. A. N. S. some observations on their habits, which are singular. They are subterraneous, but migrate. They are however incapable of progression on the ground, but use each others backs, the hinder walking over the front, while the latter remain quiescent. They thus form an ever moving stream above and solid mass below and seem like a slender slow moving snake. Has such a habit been noticed in any other species, e.g. in Europe? I have not found it. An early reply will be thankfully received by thy friend in the Nat. Sci.

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